

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAM-01 /092 W

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R 271716Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5204

INFO UFHRS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 395

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0473

E.O.;\$6652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MORG PINS MR SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. SPANISH MILITARY ATTACHE TOLD EMBOFF FEBRUARY 26 THAT MILITARY SITUATION IN MAURITANIAN PORTION OF SAHARA IS PRESENTLY QUIET. ATTACHE ANTICIPATES UPTURN IN POLISARIO ACTIVITY ON/ABOUT FEBRUARY 28, WHEN TRIPARTITE ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALLY ENDS, AND CONSIDERS AREA AROUND BIR MOGHREP MOST VULNERABLE AS FAR AS MAURITANIANS ARE CONCERNED. ATTACHE SAID RUMORS THAT MAURITANIAN ETAT MAJOR OULD HOUSSEIN HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY REMOVED FROM CONTROL OF SAHARA CAMPAIGN ARE SIMPLY NOT RPT NOT TURE. OULD HOUSSEIN IS STILL VERY MUCH IN CHARGE OF SITUATION.

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2. SPANIARD REPORTS THAT ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO MAURITANIA, SALEH BENKOBBI WHO IS CURRENTLY TRAVELING AFRICA ON SPECIAL EXPLANATORY MISSION FOR PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE, HAS LEFT COUNTRY PERMANENTLY. HIS HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN PACKED UP AND SENT TO ALGIERS. MOHAMED YAHIAOUI IS IN CHARGE OF EMBASSY. ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE, LT. BEN MAGHNIA AHMED, AND JUNIOR OFFICER, ZOUHIR SI BOUAKAZ, REMAIN IN NOUAKCHOTT.

3. SPANISH DIPLOMAT COMMENTED TO EMBOFF FEBRUARY 26 THAT GIRM OFFICIALS HAVE MADE CONTACT WITH POLISARIO. MAURITANIAN OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY MET WITH POLISARIO REPRESENTATIVE IN TRIPOLI ON FEBRUARY 4 AND MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR IN PARIS MADE CONTACT WITH POLISARIO ON FEBRUARY 13 OR 14. (GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED SIMILAR REPORT FROM FRG EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI.) IN BOTH CASES, POLISARIO REPRESENTATIVES ARE REPORTEDLY MAURITANIAN DISSIDENTS. PRECISE PURPOSE OF CONTACT IS NOT KNOWN. HANDYSIDE

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